

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS



“If I Had \$100, I Would...” Essay Contest

2011 Winning Essays*



“SPCA Suds”

by Jack Gadol

Pinewood Preparatory School

If I had \$100, I would be as happy as a happy face. My first thought would be wow, I can finally buy an old Xbox 360! But then I would think smarter and start a car wash business, so I can make more money. That would be fun!

To start a car wash, I would need some basic supplies. First I would need soap, buckets, and a sponge. Also, I would need a water source and a snack basket for the waiting room. We would be open from four o'clock to six o'clock on weekdays because I have to get my homework done. On Friday and Saturday, we would be open from 10-6. It would be fun!

The car wash will assist people in having a clean car and I will donate the profit I make to the SPCA to help the animals. That will make me as happy as an elephant getting fed. I would be very excited to help other people get a clean car and help the animals!

“If I Had One Hundred Dollars”

by Luke Hopkins

Cherokee Trail Elementary

If I had one hundred dollars I would...I would do a lot. I would give 10% to the church. The bible says to tithe. Do what the Bible says! Now I have ninety dollars.

I would buy a BIKE. My Great Grandmother (we just call her Grandmother) is ninety years old and stays in her house. There is a pathway that I can ride on that leads me almost instantly to her house without crossing any dangerous places and I can stop to visit Mama Jane (she is my Grandma). So that works out. I can have some fun riding the bike and visit people. I saw a bike that was sixty dollars on sale.

You remember I told you about Mama Jane. She cooks every Sunday for our family of twelve including cousins, aunts, and uncles. That is a lot of cooking don't you think? I would give her

some new pots and pans. I heard her tell mom that's all she really needs. She was looking at the black Friday sale papers. She cooks my favorite foods such as macaroni pie and chicken pie. Boy are those good!! This would make her happy the way she makes us happy when we eat together every Sunday. She loves to cook. Thirty dollars would buy her pots and pans. It would be like saying thank you for cooking too.

Well, I'm cleaned out now so that basically wraps it up. That's what I would get with one hundred dollars.

"Stocking Up on Lemonade"

by Colin Baker

Pinewood Preparatory School

If I had one hundred dollars, I would be filled with the satisfied feeling that I just won a big race. Plus a grin of glee would rise upon my face while I spring towards the man and shake his hand wildly. Then I would try to contain the energy of 10 toddlers who had just drank a cup of coffee. Finally, I'd start the gears grinding in my old brain. My mind would be filled with thoughts of big shot tycoons and fancy restaurants, but suddenly I'd remember I am a wild ten year old kid who has a bigger imagination than Dr. Suess. Finally, two golden words would fly from heaven: lemonade stand!

First, I will buy a cheap plastic table and make a sign that says "Lemonade." Next, I'll buy a couple sweet bags of sugar, a few juicy lemons, and a couple cups. Hopefully, business is amazing and stocks are low because my profits will purchase stock. Now I enter the stock market, and do my research. I purchase as many stocks as I can, keeping some money for lemonade supplies to keep the business going. While sipping lemonade I watch the stocks daily. When the price rises, I sell for more profit.

Once I've doubled my money, I will proudly enter the Palmetto House, a homeless shelter in my hometown. I will continue to donate every single cent of my hard earned money to help the Palmetto House. Stocking up on lemonade will stock me up with pride.

"If I Had One Hundred Dollars, I Would..."

by Latreana Jordan

North Central Middle School

If I had one hundred dollars, I would donate some money to charity, help my mother pay the bills, and I would give the rest of my money to help improve my church. If I did this, I would feel that I am giving back to my community. I really want to help solve some of the problems that I notice in everyday life. Helping to improve our society has been my number one goal that I've always wanted to achieve. It may not be much, but it will help many people in need.

I would definitely give at least thirty dollars to charity. All of those commercials I have seen on television about children who don't have food, clean water, or shelter brings tears to my eyes. I imagine being in their shoes, how I would want somebody to help me, to be able to live through that tragedy and tell people my story of what I had been through and how somebody was kind enough to donate some money for me to be healthy and strong.

I would have to help my mother pay the bills. She does so much for my sister and me so helping her pay the bills would be the least I could do. It could be a sign of my appreciation. She deserves to have to pay less for her bills. I could take some of that weight off of her shoulders.

Giving some money to my church would be a great idea. Improving the restrooms and assisting with utilities would be a tremendous help to my church. I would also give my ten percent. Thinking about what I could do for my church really makes me happy.

There are so many things I could do with one hundred dollars. It may seem like a total waste of money for some people, but it seems like so much more to me. Many things can be done with one hundred dollars and people have their own ways of spending money but that's how I would spend mine. Some people like to keep money for themselves, but I like to give my money to people who need it more than I do. That's what I would do with one hundred dollars.

“How \$100 Can Help Our Country”

by Kirkland Smith

Pinewood Preparatory School

If I had \$100 I would attempt to stretch the money and end our country's economic problems by starting a shirt selling business. We would steadily grow until I can put money into communities and this nation will prosper again. Small businesses help our country stay on top.

To start my business I would buy silk screening equipment, t-shirts, and ink for printing. I would keep some money to save, give some to the church, and use the rest to buy more supplies. If more people started small businesses, we would be able to end the nation's recession and turmoil.

My plan will work because if I sell the t-shirts for \$5.00 and I sell 200, that is \$1000.00 a week and if I spend \$100.00 on supplies that is \$900.00 in profit. This is my way of multiplying the \$100.00. I like this plan because it is a win-win for every one, including the nation. The nation will get some of the money from this to help ease off our taxes. That is why I like this plan.

“Let’s Help Special Needs Kids”

by McKenna Rossomme
Pinewood Preparatory School

If I had \$100 I would donate half of it to my friend’s therapeutic horse back riding center so her barn would be more suitable for special needs kids. I think it would be a good idea because it would give these kids an experience of a life time. Another reason I would donate the money is that my friend had a therapeutic horse, Spot Me in a Crowd that died over the summer. They had Spot Me in a Crowd because her brother is a special needs kid. I feel so badly for her and that is why I would love to donate the \$100 to her barn.

I would also plan to work at her barn just to see the smiles on the special needs children’s faces. I would help the kids mount up, tack up, tack the horses and help groom the horses. Then I would use half the money I had for the horses’ feed and tack.

I think my plan would work because horses have shown that they help kids that have special needs feel better. I would love to do this plan so I can see the smiles on their faces. I love working with special needs kids and horses.

“If I Had One Hundred Dollars, I Would ...”

by Pearce McWhirter
Lewisville Elementary School

If I had \$100 I would give it to my neighbor, and his wife. He does not have very much money and his wife is very ill. It is up to him to take care of her, and he also has health problems. He comes to our house once a week selling fruit out of the back of his truck. He looks for things to sell, and gets old appliances and rebuilds them to sell. He barely makes enough money to get food and clothes and medicine. Sometimes I go to his house and help him with his chickens and yard work, or wash his truck. Another reason I would give him the money is for him to buy another window unit for his house. His house is really hot in the summer. If there was any money left over for him I would hope he could get some new teeth. He only has 2 teeth and he has to eat squishy, soft, mushy, nasty food.

It would be nice to be able to help my neighbor and his wife. Every time my friends come over we go to his house and he is really nice to us. Out of all the places I could give it to like charities, nursing homes or church I would give it to him. I think if all the people worked to give some money to people like him America could be a much better place to live.

“If I Had 100 Dollars”
by Jaqawnya McElveen
Ronald E. McNair Middle School

If I had 100 dollars I would donate it towards the research of cancer. Researchers have been working to find a cure, and where it comes from, yet no one has yet been successful. Many people have died and their families were devastated because of cancer. It makes me sad to think that people have to go through something like that and there is nothing they can do about it. I want to make a change to that.

If I could not get in contact with anyone so that my money could go towards cancer, I would donate my money to much needier people. It could go towards that Salvation Army, homeless people, and families without food and running water. I know that one hundred dollars is not enough to make a huge differentiation in this economy but the thought that if I have just one hundred dollars I could make someone's somberness fade brings joy to my heart.

I know that I would want to save the money to go to college but, I could do better things than put the money in the bank and save it all to my self. I honestly want to make a change and I know that I don't need money to do that but it would help tremendously. I am always wondering how could I make just a small difference in the world and this seems like the perfect opportunity. In closure, if I had one hundred dollars, I would try to make an impact on the world.

“My Decision of My Inspiration”
by Baileigh Harrelson
Thomas Sumter Academy

If I had \$100 I would think about something not based on me. Even though I would love to have it I wouldn't use it just for me. My school Thomas Sumter Academy, had something called the “Pink Out” for breast cancer awareness, after this I was inspired. My Nanny's sister was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 and over came it quickly. My friend's grandmother has breast cancer and I hope she overcomes hers also. I know that \$100 would buy me a great deal of golden treasures, but these people have inspired me and I would like to help.

My life is not just based on myself, but for others who need it more than I do. Picking the Susan G. Komen Foundation is one thing that is important to me because family, friends, and many others I know have had loved ones die of breast cancer. Many have fought lots of battles. It is really sad seeing someone in pain especially loved ones.

Being able to help breast cancer victims will be a big opportunity for me and everyone else seems to think so too. Doing this is not because others chose it for me but it is because I chose to be different. I think that my Aunt is the strongest person in the world because she fought an amazing battle. I would like to let my Aunt know that I love her and I admire her. This is how I would spend my \$100 on something useful.

“If I Had \$100”
by Lily Haire
Palmetto Christian Academy

If I had one hundred dollars, I would donate 70 percent of the money to a sea turtle hospital. I would also buy necessities for our troops with the other twenty percent. In my next few paragraphs I will explain my topics.

If I donated the 70 percent to a sea turtle hospital, it would help them buy the things they need to make the turtles be able to return to the ocean again. I have recently visited a turtle hospital at our local South Carolina Aquarium. All the turtles there have been recently hurt and are going to be able to return to the ocean soon. I went in the summer and there was a leatherback turtle. I got an email later that said she was ready to be released at Isle of Palms. I went to her release and it made me feel like I would really want to get involved in turtle activities.

With my other 30 percent I would buy clothes and food for our troops overseas. My uncle is in the air force and that is what would inspire me to spend the money on them. Men, who only have one pair of boots, can get worn down by sand and so I would buy them boots.

This is what I would do if I had 100 dollars. And I hope the people or animals I give it to will be very happy.

**For privacy purposes, SCDCA replaced any names of people contained in the students' respective essays with generic terms.*